

CHAPTER EIGHT

Soviet Policy in Iran in Wartime

THE outbreak of World War II gave Russia an opportunity to revive her long-cherished ambitions with regard to Iran. Documents on Nazi-Soviet relations published by the American government revealed that Moscow was seeking, at the time of the Soviet-Nazi friendship, formal recognition of her special interests in the Persian Gulf area. The draft of a Four-Power Pact, drawn up in Berlin between Hitler and Foreign Commissar Molotov on November 13, 1940, provided for the division of the world into spheres of influence. It had to be submitted for adoption to Germany, Russia, Italy, and Japan. According to the secret Protocol No. i Germany secured for herself a sphere of influence in Europe and central Africa; Italy, a sphere in northern and northeastern Africa; and Japan, in southeastern Asia. As to Russia, paragraph four of the Protocol provided: "The Soviet Union declares that its territorial aspirations center south of the national territory of the Soviet Union in the direction of the Indian Ocean."*

This draft agreement was supplemented by a more exact formulation of the Soviet sphere of influence made to the German Ambassador in Moscow by Molotov on November 26, 1940. In this conversation Molotov stated that the Soviet

government was prepared
to accept the draft of the Four-Power Pact, provided
—inter-alia—
"that the area south of Batum and Baku in the
general direction of

** Nazi-Soviet Relations 1959-1041, Documents from the
Archives of the German
Foreign Office (Department of State, Publication 3023;
Washington, 1948), p. 257.*